

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES: IRON INDUSTRY IN SOUTH

Now Is the Time for Iron and Steel Development in This Greatly Favored Southland.

DIXIE MUST HUSTLE FOR ITSELF

Accepted Time for Richmond and Other Cities of the South to Land Automobile Factories and Other Iron and Steel-Consuming Plants

"The greatest opportunity which the South has had for many years to bring about a larger development of iron and steel interests," thinks the Manufacturers' Record, "is afforded at the present time. The overwhelming demand for iron and steel in all their finished forms both for domestic and foreign consumption has brought about a condition such as this industry has never before seen."

The department's figures of the crops in cotton, including seed, grains, hay, tobacco, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes and apples, according to Mr. Harrison, show a total value of \$88,620,000, an increase with \$16,000 last year, an increase of \$16,600. The value of live stock on farms in those States is reported by the Interstate Committee for the Suspension of the Pine Blister Rust, has been organized, and with headquarters in Boston, has gone actively to work to night and wipe out the awful and destructive disease.

The committee believes the rust will spread all over the country if not quickly eradicated and in a little while be doing damage incalculable to the white pines of Virginia and the South.

Therefore, Harris A. Reynolds, secretary of the committee, has sent out a warning and asks the industrial section to let Virginians and North Carolinians know of the blister rust and how to head it off.

It is true that with the gradual trend of capital back into railroad developments, with tremendous increases in the automobile and motor truck industry, which as yet is really in its infant stage, and with better spirit for all constructive building work than has existed for several years past, and all this added to the certainty of a great expansion of the commerce of the United States Navy and of a vast increase in the value of merchant ships made necessary, the day conditions, the outlook for iron and steel is one of exceptional optimism.

There is certainly no danger of another inactive period for many years to come.

NOW IS THE ACCEPTED TIME FOR THE SOUTH

The Record makes the point that with all of the iron and steel plants of the North and West crowded to the limit of their capacity, and large expenditures being made for new plants and the extension of existing plants, it becomes of vital importance to the South—and indeed to the nation—that this ambitious time should be utilized for a more complete development of the great iron and steel possibilities of the South. In this section where vast ore supplies are in close proximity to coal, coal where increasing wealth and population are afforded an ever-increasing market, it behoves the people of the South to put forth greater efforts than ever before to make certain of a large development of our iron and steel resources.

That is true enough and it is also true that the South should not depend altogether upon outside capital and other peoples for leadership in this work. However much it may need the incoming of outside men and means in this kind of work, the South itself ought to begin an aggressive campaign in such a way as to command itself and the world's attention to the men and the money from the outside. It might be enough that the leaders in the iron and steel industries of the country are standing in their own light as long as they do not of their own volition take an active part in the development on a large scale of iron and steel in the South, but this is the time the South should not wait for these people to take the initiative, but should by its own active development and now while the opportunity exists, is the time to go at the work vigorously.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR RICHMOND AND VIRGINIA

Historical efforts ought to be made in the same time, suggests the Record, to induce some of the large automobile manufacturers to establish branch plants in the South. This section can provide the raw material and the labor and also furnish a large part of the market. As it is especially important for the western industrial prosperity as well as safety in case of war that the steel production of the country should not at present be largely dependent upon Lake Superior ores, so it appears, supporting that the automobile and motor truck industry should not be centered, as is present, to so great an extent, in regions dependent upon steel made from Lake superior ores.

Neither the iron nor steel nor the automobile nor the locomotive building interests of the country can afford to take the risks which they are now taking. They should turn their attention to the South and at the same time the people of this section must become aggressive factors in beginning this work of future development.

This entire subject of the best set forth above are well worth the attention of Richmond business men. Now is the time for the automobile factories, for big iron and steel works, plants and for some other big things that conditions have brought to sight.

SOUTHERN SOIL TILLERS MANY MILLIONS TO GOOD

Figures Show Farmers Along Southern Railway Have \$290,000,000 More Than Year Ago.

NEW ENEMY IN FORESTS MENACES VIRGINIA PINE

Blisters Rust Attacking and Destroying White Pine Forests of New England—Headed South.

VIRGINIA LUMBER THREATENED

Imported Disease That May Cause Damage Amounting to Millions of Dollars—Easy to Combat if Steps Be Taken in Time.

Pine blister rust is a disease which has attacked the white pine forests of New England, invaded New York State and is said to be moving southward. It has become such a serious matter that the Interstate Committee for the Suspension of the Pine Blister Rust has been organized, and with headquarters in Boston, has gone actively to work to night and wipe out the awful and destructive disease.

The committee believes the rust will spread all over the country if not quickly eradicated and in a little while be doing damage incalculable to the white pines of Virginia and the South.

Therefore, Harris A. Reynolds, secretary of the committee, has sent out a warning and asks the industrial section to let Virginians and North Carolinians know of the blister rust and how to head it off.

Mr. Reynolds describes the white pine blister as a ring-like disease, native to Europe, and according to eminent authorities, it has rendered the growing of our native white pine in England, Denmark, Holland and parts of Germany impracticable. The disease was imported to this country on nursery stock of white pine, and plantations made from such stock in the States of New York, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut have been found to be infected with this disease. Plantations in other States are under suspicion for the disease.

Planting pine seedling in the increased extent to which Southern farmers have produced supplies used on the farm as well as the large increase in the value of their marketable products," says Mr. Harrison. "I think it may fairly be said that the average condition of the farmers of the South is never better than it is now."

WILSON AROUSED THEM

President Advises York County Folks to Get Busy—County Fair May Be Result.

YORKTOWN, Va., January 29.—When President Wilson was here the other day he mentioned his desire to have the richness of the soil and the extent of uncultivated lands and other resources of York County, and when told of the richness of the soil and the much uncultivated lands and the cheapness of the same he expressed surprise that the people were doing so little to let the outside world know of the possibilities of the county. Since then the business men of the ancient town and numerous farmers around about have been discussing the question and are trying to get ready for action. A county fair of sufficient proportions to attract outside attention has been proposed as the first progressive step. No definite action has been taken yet, but it is safe to predict that there will be a county fair at this town next fall. There will probably be a meeting of citizens in the courthouse at an early date to set the ball in motion.

DO ITS OWN REPAIRING

Southern Railway Finds It Necessary to Build Shops to Repair and Rebuild Steel Cars.

So rapid has been the increase in the use of steel cars on the lines of the Southern Railway that it has been found necessary to provide a special shop for repairs to equipment of this class, which is to be located at the coster shops near Knoxville, Tenn.

The new facility will consist of an addition main shed 72 feet by 480 feet, with three tracks extending through the same and a work shop 50 feet by 100 feet, both equipped with overhead power cranes and full complement of machinery and tools for repairing steel cars.

During the past ten years the Southern Railway has purchased 23,600 all-steel and steel underframe cars, and the new shop will provide better facilities for keeping them in repair than could be had in the old shops, which originally built for handling only wooden cars.

Contract for the construction of the steel frame for the main shed has been let to the Virginia Bridge and Iron Company, and the material will be fabricated at the Memphis plant. Construction will begin before April 1 and will be completed within six weeks from that date.

FURTHER EXPANSION

Jobbers Active—Retailers Breaking Last Year's Record—Factories Working on Full Time.

R. G. Dean & Co.'s special local report for The Times-Dispatch of trade conditions is as follows:

Reports for the week indicate further expansion in general business. Retail trade is better than for the same period last year. Local jobbers continue active, with good prospects for spring trade. The volume of business has exceeded expectations, and optimism is apparent in almost all lines of business.

The tobacco market is steadily improving, the offerings of fair to good tobacco and prices from fair to good. The sale of light sun-cured tobacco is still substantial.

Factories are working full time, and labor is well employed. The demand for lumber continues at rising prices. Some interruption, however, is caused in delivery owing to shortage of cars.

Local banks are well supplied with money, and legitimate business is experiencing no difficulty in securing ample accommodation. Clearings for the week were \$1,644,116.

VIRGINIA ZINC MINES

Holliday Mines in Spotsylvania County Put Into Commission—Richmond and Baltimore Capital Units.

DURHAM, N.C., January 29.—Figures of the Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce just published show that in 1910, Durham had \$1,000,000 invested in manufacturing in mines, and the amount over the amount the previous year was invested here in the same year, 1910. The value of the products of the Durham manufacturing plants in 1910 was \$1,776,000, an increase of \$776,000 over the value of the 1909 production.

Dairymen's Association to Meet, HARRISONBURG, Va., January 29.—Proceedings are well under way for the annual convention of the Virginia Dairymen's Association, to be held in Harrisonburg, Feb. 1, 2, 3 and 4. The industry has been developed rapidly during the past few years, particularly in the Shenandoah Valley. Addresses are to be made by experts from Washington, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

VIEW AND NEAR VIEWS: HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Same Old Hint About Sheep and Dogs. Colonel Roosevelt Wants Southern Plant.

GOOD, BUT DON'T DO OVERCROPPING STUNT

Farmville is in the dark-tobacco belt of Virginia, and is one of the largest markets for that class of the weed. The dark belt has had something of a break ever since the beginning of the European war, its trade with Germany and Austria and Italy being very much broken up. But things are getting better. The eastern end of one of the banks of Farmville is reported by a correspondent to have said that while last year few farmers paid their notes in bank, this season two-thirds of them have already settled, and no doubt a majority of the remaining ones will pay up in a very short while. The explanation, so the writer says, is found in the fact tobacco is selling unusually well, and the farmers made splendid crops last year, for which they are now getting a good \$10 average, a profit-paying price. This is good, but it is to be hoped it will not drive the tobacco growers of Southwest Virginia, to "overcropping" themselves this year.

LEGISLATORS, SHEEP AND THE CUD DGS AGAIN

"The Virginia Legislature, now in session at Richmond," says the Big Stone Gap Post, "should pass a law of sufficient force to give ample protection to sheep owners in the Old Dominion. The sheep industry in this state affords protection to the raising of dogs, and has made very profitable in the west part of the State. Particularly Southwest Virginia is especially adapted to sheep raising, but, on account of the great damage done the docks by worthless dogs, the industry has never been developed to any great extent. Virginia is ideally located for the production of early lambs, and for the ravages of the common cur the number of sheep now in the State would be doubled, and probably quadrupled, in the next five years, thereby adding thousands of dollars' worth of taxable property to the counties of the State."

That is as true as holly writ, and nobody knows it better than the legislators, but no legislature that Virginia people have elected up to date has ever dared to legislate against the common dog.

PLAGUE WILL TACKLE

ANY KIND OF PINE

Unlike the chestnut blight, the blaster rust cannot spread directly from one pine to another pine. It has two hosts—one stage of the disease lives in the bark of uncleaned pines, the other develops on the leaves of currant, gooseberry and raspberry bushes, both the wild and the domestic species. The life of the disease on currants and berries is spread to other currants and berries, and also to pines. There is a but one stage of the disease on the pines, and this can spread only back to currants and berries. Therefore, the disease has a vulnerable point of attack, namely, the complete elimination of one or the other of the hosts in the sections where the disease is found. The pine forests, as a whole, are infinitely more valuable than the currants and berries; therefore, the latter are the ones to be destroyed in the sections where the disease has been found. Where the disease has been located the safe thing to do is to destroy all currants and gooseberries in the immediate vicinity, whether or not they are infected, as well as all bushes that are infected.

The total distance that the disease will spread in one season is not definitely determined, but one point is certain, namely, that it will surely spread in this country wherever pines and currants or gooseberries are found in the same vicinity. Whether currants and gooseberries are found practically all over the country, which makes the spread certain unless drastic measures are taken to prevent it. The maximum distance that the disease will carry from currants and gooseberries to pines, and vice versa, has not been definitely proved, but certainly that distance is several hundred yards.

THE STITCH IN TIME MAY SAVE MILLIONS

Now is the time for the State and Federal government to act," says the committee. "Nothing short of the most thorough and thorough measures with full compensation and sufficient. A few thousand dollars spent now will do more good than hundreds of thousands after the disease has gained a permanent foothold. Once it is thoroughly established, no amount of money will save the diseased places whose currants or gooseberries are associated with them. A vigorous and continuing effort should be made to eradicate the disease. At the least, it will do so much to reduce the cost to make its control at a minimum cost. There was a time when the girdle and rootworm moth could have exterminated the peach orchards, but the proper measures were adopted accordingly. There should be a great munition plant in the Southern iron fields." The Colonel is right about the location of a big plant in the South, and Richmond may be considered in the Southern iron field, for great stone-making plants, nail works and other iron-working industries flourish in Richmond. Why not the great munition factory that Colonel Roosevelt thinks ought to be in the South?

THE STITCH IN TIME MAY SAVE MILLIONS

The Southern Railway has recently put in an order for 1,000 box cars, and it is said this does not complete the orders necessary to meet the company's needs.

The Roanoke special says the Norfolk and Western has received and put into commission five out of the thirty engines ordered some time before the close of last year; also two steel baggage and postal cars, the same being a part of a recent big order for new equipment.

BIG NORFOLK CITY CONTRACT,

NORFOLK, Va., January 29.—The Board of Control has let to contract the rebuilding of three dams and spillways at Little Creek and Lake Taylor. The cost of the work will be about \$65,000.

WOOD'S PROSPERITY SEEDS.

With bright prospects ahead for good prices on Vegetable and all Farm products, our farmers should feel encouraged to plant improved varieties of seeds, so as to increase their crops.

WOOD'S VEGETABLE SEEDS, long known for their superior quality and productivity, have greatly increased in demand and popularity.

WOOD'S GRASS, CLOVER and FARM SEEDS are of tested germination and superior qualities. Write for prices.

WOOD'S DESCRIPTIVE CATALOG gives valuable information about all Seeds for the Farm and Garden. Mailed free on request.

T. W. WOOD & SONS,
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PAINTS

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Tanner Paint & Oil Co.

1117 and 1419 E. Main St.

Richmond, Va.

NEW INDUSTRY UTILIZES BY-PRODUCTS OF COAL

Benzol and Toluol, Valuable Oils That Used to Go to Waste, Now Recovered.

BLESSING FROM EUROPEAN WAR

Virginia Coke Ovens May Be Made Doubly Valuable—More Money in Coal Than Ever Before Dreamed Of—Starting Facts.

A subject which is attracting much attention in certain parts of the country at the present time, and ought to attract marked attention in Virginia and such other Southern States as produce coal and iron, is the proper development, through chemical processes, of the by-products of coal, coke and iron plants.

In response to the unprecedented demand for high explosives, a new industry, the recovery of benzol and toluol suddenly sprang into existence in this country last year, and reports made to the United States Geological Survey by all of the by-product coke plants in the country indicate that the output of benzol and other light oils in 1915 amounted to 12,942,563 gallons, and in connection with this there were produced 761,253 pounds of naphthalene, a solid crystalline substance of much value. Some of the benzol and toluol recovery plants were in operation at the beginning of last year, but the most of them were built during the next few months, under hasty orders, in the manner of

the gas plants, which were built in

the same manner.

In this connection it may interest

coke makers in Virginia to know

something of the operations of the Chattanooga Gas and Coal Products Company, which has commenced to make coke by new methods that enable them to develop from what has heretofore been waste numerous valuable by-products. President Wolfe, of that company, last week announced that with the completion of the benzol plant that will be in operation by or before February 1, the company will be producing not only gas, but tar, sulphur of ammonium, benzol, toluol, xylol and solvent naphtha, all very valuable by-products that have in times past gone to waste.

coke making attempted to recover them on a large scale. Late in 1914 the price of benzol, and particularly of toluol, soared to such a point that a dozen other companies began to build plants to recover these, which were then being burned with the gas, and by the end of last year nineteen new plants were in operation and others in the course of erection. Every coke plant in Virginia and West Virginia could add a benzol-recovery plant within sixty days, and doubtless they would find a customer for all of their product right here in Virginia, at Hopewell.

There is undoubtedly a growing de-

mand for these products, and there is

no danger whatever of flooding the market. The Manufacturers' Record

tells us that at the recent meeting of

the American Society of Engineers,

held in Baltimore, possibilities in this

connection were brought out with startling

emphasis, and in the papers presented

by eminent chemists it was